

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 SAM-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAJ-01 OMB-01 EB-07 COME-00

DHA-02 IO-10 SIL-01 LAB-04 ORM-02 SCCT-01 VO-03 SCA-01

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DEPT PASS INFO ROUTINE TO ALL NATO CAPITALS

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SUBJ: FOREIGN MINISTER AREILZA SUGGESTS ELECTIONS AROUND
THE END OF 1976

BEGIN SUMMARY

FOREIGN MINISTER AREILZA HAS BECOME QUITE ACCESSIBLE TO
THE PRESS. IN HIS MOST IMPORTANT PRESS CONFERENCE, GIVEN
IN PARIS ON THE 18TH AS HE DEPARTED THE CIEC CONFERENCE,
HE SAID HE THOUGHT THERE WOULD BE ELECTIONS ON THE BASIS OF
UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE AROUND THE END OF 1976 AND MADE A POINTED RE-
MINDER THAT SPAIN, RATHER THAN FOREIGN PRESSURE, WOULD DETERMINE
SPANISH DESTINY. HIS REMARKS HAVE PRODUCED CONSIDERABLE
REACTION ON THE RIGHT, INCLUDING A REMARKABLE DEBATE IN
CORTES COMMITTEE OVER WHAT AREILZA HAD TO SAY. A RESUME
OF THE DECEMBER 18 PRESS CONFERENCE AND OF THE DEBATE FOLLOWS.
END SUMMARY

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1. HE THOUGHT THERE WOULD BE ELECTIONS IN SPAIN UNDER UNIVERSAL

SUFFRAGE BEFORE THE END OF 1976, BECAUSE THIS IS WHAT THE PEOPLE WANT, NOT BECAUSE IT IS A PRICE THEY (MEANING EUROPE) ARE ASKING. (THERE HAVE BEEN NO INDICATIONS YET OF THE GOVERNMENT'S VIEW ON THE TIMING AND SPECIFIC NATURE OF THE ELECTIONS.)

--THERE IS NO LEGAL OBSTACLE TO EVOLUTION. THE EXTREME RIGHT AND LEFT ARE SMALL MINORITIES THAT WOULD PROBABLY RECEIVE NO MORE THAN TEN PERCENT OF THE VOTE.

--THE GOVERNMENT EXPECTS THE COLLABORATION OF ALL POLITICAL FORCES, STARTING FROM EXISTING LEGALITY, IN ACCEPTING A FREE PLAY OF DEMOCRATIC FORCES. (HE EXCLUDED THE COMMUNISTS, HOWEVER.) THE SOONER THE POLITICAL FORCES COLLABORATE THE SOONER EVOLUTION WILL TAKE PLACE.

--THE LINK-UP WITH THE EEC WILL NOT BE QUICK NOR EASY. IT WILL BE ACCOMPLISHED WITHOUT ACCEPTING INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL SPANISH MATTERS. IT MUST BE QUITE CLEAR SPAIN WILL NEVER ACCEPT INTERNAL INTERFERENCE. THE GOVERNMENT'S FIRST TASK IS TO DEFEND SPANISH INTEGRITY, NOT ONLY POLITICAL INTEGRITY.

--THE GOS PROPOSES TO MOVE, STARTING FROM CONSTITUTIONAL LEGALITY, TOWARDS A DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM BASED ON EFFECTIVE POLITICAL LIBERTIES, BECAUSE THIS IS BEST FOR THE SPANISH POLITY. POLITICAL DEMOCRACY IS CONSONANT WITH SPAIN'S CURRENT ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL STRUCTURE. SPAIN IS NOW THE TENTH INDUSTRIAL NATION OF THE WORLD.

--PRECISELY HOW THESE ELECTIONS WILL BE CARRIED OUT IS STILL AN OPEN QUESTION. BUT UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE IS RECOGNIZED BY THE FUNDAMENTAL LAWS. WHETHER IT IS APPLIED TO THE CORTES IS ONLY A QUESTION OF REGULATION. IN 12 OR 14 MONTHS THE FIRST ELECTIONS MAY TAKE PLACE.

--WITH RESPECT TO MIGRANT WORKERS AND EXILES THAT ASK FOR SPANISH PASSPORTS, HE SAID HE WOULD ORDER DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS TO MAKE SURE SPANIARDS COULD OBTAIN PASSPORTS.

--SANTIAGO CARRILLO (HEAD OF THE PCE) IS A SPANISH CITIZEN AND THERE WILL BE NO DISCRIMINATION BECAUSE OF HIS IDEOLOGY. BUT, IT IS ANOTHER PROBLEM IF HE FACES JUDICIAL PROBLEMS.

--IT IS ONE THING TO SPEAK OF A NATIONAL PACT--IN THE SENSE OF THE REAL FORCES THAT ACCEPT THE DEMOCRATIC PLAY OF FORCES AND THE IDEA OF ALTERNATION IN POWER. BUT THE PCE, WITH ITS COMMUNIST DISCIPLINE, BELONGS TO THE GALAXY OF TOTALITARIANISM LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND DOES NOT ACCEPT THE DEMOCRATIC GAME, AS SHOWN RECENTLY IN PORTUGAL.

--AMNESTY AND THE ANTI-TERRORIST LAW FALL IN THE PROVINCE OF THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE WHO HAS CLEAR IDEAS ON THIS SUBJECT, BUT I CANNOT SPEAK IN HIS PLACE.

--IN RESPECT OF THE SAHARA, ITS POPULATION SHOULD BE CONSULTED ABOUT ITS OWN FUTURE. BUT, IN THE FACE OF TWO CONTRADICTORY UN RESOLUTIONS, THERE IS A CONFUSED

SITUATION WITH THE MOROCCAN OCCUPATION OF THE NORTHERN SAHARA AND ANOTHER MAURITANIAN OCCUPATION OF SOME PARTS OF THE SOUTH, PLUS ARMED ENCOUNTERS WITH SAHARAN FORCES. SPAIN, AS THE OLD ADMINISTRATING POWER, HAS A MORAL RESPONSIBILITY AND THE SAHARAN POPULATION SHOULD BE CONSULTED, ALTHOUGH THE MANNER OF CONSULTATION REMAINS UNCERTAIN.

--SO FAR AS THE CIEC CONFERENCE IS CONCERNED, THE LABOR OF NORTH/SOUTH NEGOTIATIONS HAS JUST BEGUN IN ATTEMPTING TO RECONCILE PRUDENT BUT CONTRADICTORY POSITIONS.

2. REFLECTING THE GROWING DISQUIET IN THE "BUNKER," WHAT THE PRESS DESCRIBES AS A STORM HAS BOILED UP IN CORTES COMMITTEE OVER ARIELZA'S STATEMENTS. CRITICS HAVE FASTENED ON HIS REMARKS THAT SANTIAGO CARRILLO WOULD NOT BE DISCRIMINATED AGAINST BECAUSE OF HIS IDEOLOGY, IGNORING AREILZA'S NONE TOO VEILED INTIMATION THAT CARRILLO MIGHT BE A CRIMINAL AND HIS EXPLICIT OPPOSITION TO LEGALIZING THE COMMUNIST PARTY. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO AVOID THE CONCLUSION, GIVEN THIS CONTEXT, THAT HIS FALANGIST CRITICS HAVE FOUND A STALKING HORSE TO ATTACK THE CONCEPT OF POLITICAL EVOLUTION EMBODIED IN THE GOS STATEMENT OF INTENT AND AREILZA'S REMARKS. IN THE PRESS, THE MONARCHIST "ABC" USED THIS CONTRETEMPS TO MAKE ACERBIC SUGGESTIONS THAT CORTES REFORM WAS AN URGENT NECESSITY AND QUITE CONSONANT WITH THE KING'S MESSAGE SINCE THE CORTES OUGHT TO BE MORE REPRESENTATIVE THAN ITS CURRENT LARGELY APPOINTIVE AND ORGANIC MAKE-UP PERMITS. THE CATHOLIC CENTRIST "YA", ON THE OTHER HAND, SUGGESTED THAT WHETHER THE CORTES MEMBERS KNEW IT OR NOT THEY WERE, BY EXPRESSING THEIR CRITICISM OF ARIELZA'S REMARKS, PARTICIPATING IN THE KIND OF OPEN POLITICAL GAME THAT THE NEW TIMES DEMANDED.

3. THE NEW MINISTER OF INFORMATION, MARTIN-
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GAMERO, CONFIRMED TO THE PRESS LAST NIGHT THAT ARIELZA HAD DONE NO MORE THAN SAY THAT CARRILLO, LIKE ANY SPANIARD, COULD SEEK A PASSPORT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LEGALITIES BUT IF HE WERE TO BE CHARGED WITH CRIMES THAT WAS ANOTHER MATTER. MARTIN-GAMERO ALSO INDICATED THAT HIS POLICY WOULD BE TO CONDUCT AN OPEN DIALOGUE WITHOUT RESERVATION WITH THE PRESS. HE EXPRESSED OPTIMISM FOR THE FUTURE AND NOTED THAT THE QUESTION OF AMNESTY HAD NOT BEEN DISCUSSED IN THE CABINET (THE PRESS, HOWEVER, SPECULATED THAT THE KING WILL DO SOMETHING ABOUT AN AMNESTY IN HIS YEAR-END MESSAGE).

STABLER

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ALL NATO CAPITALS.

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